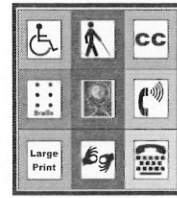




Office on the Disabled  
City of Saint Louis  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Room 305, City Hall  
March 11, 2013



### Minutes

Gina Hilberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present included Kerri Morgan, Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Jane Thomas, Linda Baker, and Bill Sheldon. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner were also present. Absent were Wendy Sullivan and Willie Kimbrough, Jr.

Minutes from the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

### Fire and Police Department Report:

Mr. Newburger informed the council that there is now a report that synthesizes all the stories the council found in order to provide that to the fire and police departments. Included with these stories are questions from the council and Chicago's current policy. The Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Public Safety will be receiving these reports. We will await their response to determine what the next step will need to be.

Mr. Keller expressed his belief that emergency responders should take responsibility for a person's wheelchair or service animal should they be taken by ambulance. Mr. Keller is also concerned about property disappearing once it is taken to the hospital. Should family members be held responsible for taking charge of wheelchair or service animal if someone is hospitalized or incarcerated? Who should be held responsible if items are missing or damaged?

Mr. Newburger states that he will let the question stand at this time. It may not be up to the police to solve the wheelchair in the street issue. It may be an issue for the city itself to figure out.

Hidden disabilities were brought up with the question of how police are instructed to recognize and understand these disabilities. Mr. Newburger commented that we've asked not what to do but rather what policy they have. People with hidden

disabilities have a responsibility to disclose that they have a disability should a need arise. Otherwise, police treat everyone equally. Autism is another disability where police may not know what is going on and the person may not have the ability to self report. Training is needed to teach police to soften their approach in these cases and dial back their intensity.

### **Transition Planning / City Buildings:**

Mr. Newburger informed that council that we have acquired a downtown map showing all city owned property. It does not include LRA owned properties. Mr. Newburger and Ms. Kreitner met with Jessica Dashner of Washington University about having her occupational therapy class start work on assessing city owned buildings for accessibility starting in May. This class teaches students about adapting and accessing the environment for accessibility. Ms. Dashner will have her students use the assessment tool provided by Ms. Hilberry that is used in Boston. Ms. Hilberry has offered to assist Ms. Dashner with any aspect of this process. She will work with them on prioritizing needs.

The council members have requested to see the map once we have an excel spreadsheet with the list of addresses. Ms. Hilberry would also like to request a listing of *all* city owned property. Mr. Newburger states that the city planning agency (GIS Unit) has these maps.

Mr. Newburger also states that these two issues (emergency responders and city building accessibility) will soon be out of the hands of the advisory council. Mr. Newburger will have to tackle the police and we're waiting until May for the occupational therapy students to start their project.

Mr. Newburger would like to make sure that the following buildings are first on the students list; City Hall, 1520 Market Street, Carnahan Building, and the Civil Courts Building.

### **Advisory Council Addition**

Per Mr. Newburger to fill the available spot on the Advisory Council it should be considered that we are lacking someone to represent the emotional or intellectual disability community. It was recommended that Jackie Lukitsch of NAMI be contacted. Ms. Baker has volunteered to approach Ms. Lukitsch and give her background information on the advisory council. (After the council meeting Ms. Baker has informed us that Ms. Lukitsch is very interested in joining the advisory council.)

### New Business

- Everyone is encouraged to vote on Proposition P on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the election.
- Per Ms. Baker, Representative Jeff Grisamore has recently filed seventeen new bills and of those, HB 711 relates to accessible parking (Requires at least one accessible parking space to be lift accessible for new parking lots and parking lots being re-stripped that contain 25 or more parking spaces.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kerri Morgan, Secretary